

WELCOME TO PAX CHRISTI WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 22, 2019

NEW HERE?

MASS TIMES:

Saturday ~ 5:00pm
Sunday ~ 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Mondays ~ 8:30am
Tuesdays ~ 8:30am
Wednesdays ~ 6:00pm
Thursdays ~ 8:30am (Word/Communion Service)
Fridays ~ 8:30am
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private) ~ Saturdays 4:00-4:30pm

Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am Mass.

Nursery provided for infants through age 4 during Sunday Mass times.

SACRAMENTS AND PRAYER:

Baptism ~ registration and info at www.paxchristi.com/baptism
Confirmation ~ info at www.paxchristi.com/confirmation
First Eucharist ~ registration and info at www.paxchristi.com/eucharist
First Reconciliation ~ registration/info at www.paxchristi.com/reconciliation
Marriage and Wedding Prep ~ www.paxchristi.com/marriage
Rosary ~ Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

Questions? Contact Andrea in the parish office, 952-405-7207.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

Join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am on the first Friday of each month, followed by coffee and hospitality. The event is sponsored by Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond Senior Ministry. All are welcome!

ON-SITE 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUPS:

Alcoholics Anonymous, Saturday Sisters AA for Women, Al-Anon/Prairie Peace, and Overeaters Anonymous. These support groups each meet weekly to offer listening, guidance, and hope for those working to overcome a specific addiction interfering with their lives.

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY – A LISTENING PRESENCE:

BeFriender ministers are trained laypersons who are available to offer a listening ear to those who are experiencing a difficult or transitional situation. BeFrienders are here to listen and care; BeFrienders do not give advice or judge, and all conversations are kept confidential.

A NOTE FROM FR MIKE BYRON

Dear Friends:

On this Christmas week it would be helpful for all of us to reflect upon a word that is bandied about quite a lot during the holidays. The word is "Peace." We share that wish with one another in our greeting cards and at church. But I wonder if we understand what a radical demand that sentiment imposes upon us. We are often accustomed to associating that word with the absence of conflict, but I'm not sure if that's really a very gospel way to understand it. After all, Jesus himself was, from the very time of His birth, a source of conflict in this world. His Nativity caused King Herod to kill all the baby boys of Israel and to force the Holy Family into exile in Egypt. In His first public utterance as an adult in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4), the response from the congregation was an attempt to throw Him off a cliff. Later, throughout His life of teaching and preaching and healing, Jesus seems consistently to have provoked fierce resistance and death plots from those who didn't like Him and His claims about God. Finally, He was executed as a criminal and a troublemaker. Not a peaceful end to a good life as we usually understand it. So maybe we have some learning to do about what it means to bring "peace" on earth in the manner of Christ. Or whether we really want to do that.

Generally in our common experience we think of peace as a state of equilibrium in which nobody is fighting against other people in public. But in fact, such a presumed "peace" is a condition in which strong people are able to coerce weak people into silence or obedience. And usually that happens through the threat of physical force and fear. A couple of weeks ago our pope was in Japan where he categorically denounced the possession and use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki (and anywhere else in the future). Contrary to what some seem to believe, this is not a new teaching in the Catholic Church. Our own U.S. bishops stated the same thing in a pastoral letter more than 35 years ago. If it seems radical now, then it's an indication of how short our memories are on this topic, or perhaps how little we have yet to understand it.

The gospel proclamation of peace is a completely different sort of thing. It has nothing to do with being better armed and more scary than the people or country next door. It is instead a complete reorientation of what it means to be a peacemaker. The whole history of the bible is a narrative about how the tribes and nations who knew themselves to be strong, militaristic, and supposedly blessed by the gods were obliterated by their own foolish pride. (Those biblical stories include both the "good guys" and the "bad guys.") This holy season of Christmas calls us back to the fact that the Prince of Peace came into our world as a homeless, defenseless baby, in order to completely upend our presumptions about what the word "Peace" means. It does not mean stalemate, and it does not mean cease-fire, and it does not mean cold war, and it does not mean more and more weapons in our communities. It means vulnerability before God and before our brothers and sisters on Earth. If that seems a bit preposterous, then we're beginning to see the real meaning of Christmas peace.

May it be ours this week.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

December 31, 5:00pm and January 1, 9:00am in the Sanctuary

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, January 3 beginning with Mass at 8:30am

SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY

Paris to Pittsburgh

Sunday, January 5, 10:15am, Room 212

THE BIBLE: GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

A Parish-Wide Faith Formation Event

January 5, 6:30-7:45pm or January 8, 6:00-7:15pm

JUSTMATTERS: FAITH AND RACIAL EQUITY

OPENING RETREAT: Saturday, January 4, 8:30am-5:00pm **RSVP**

CHOOSE A SESSION: Wednesdays, January 8-February 26, 1:00pm **OR**

THURSDAYS, January 9-February 27, 6:00pm

BOOMERS AND BEYOND EVENT

Holiday Party for the New Year

Saturday, January 11, 10:00am **RSVP**

MEN AND CHURCH FEATURING FR MIKE BYRON

An Evening for the Men of Pax Christi

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30-8:00pm, Room 212 **RSVP**

SWGC WINTER GRIEF SERIES **RSVP**

THURSDAYS, January 16-February 27, 5:30-7:30pm, St. Hubert's

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

January 17-19, Episcopal House of Prayer, \$25 **RSVP**

BOOK CLUB: THE FRIENDSHIP OF WOMEN

Two Six-Week Options: Mondays, 6:30pm beginning January 20 **OR**

THURSDAYS, 10:00am beginning January 23 **RSVP**

JANUARY JAMBOREE

The Call of the Shared Minister

Saturday, January 25, 5:00pm-8:00pm

LABYRINTH WALK

Tuesday, January 27, 6:30-8:30pm **RSVP**

ARCHDIOCESAN LISTENING SESSION

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00-9:00pm, Worship Space

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE LOVED ONES:

Juli, Mike, Maureen, Liz, Wayne, Kris, Greg, Amanda, Sherry, Ira, Steve, Calvin, Carmen, Martin, Alann, Ana Marie, Kathryn, Mark, Steve, Mary Jane, Bob, Joyce, and the R Family.

Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Care and Support, 952-941-3150.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 23

8:30am MASS

6:30pm Pack 348 Mtg.

6:30pm Troop 370 Mtg.

Tuesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE - SEE SCHEDULE BELOW

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY - SEE SCHEDULE BELOW

Thursday, December 26

8:30am Word/Communion Service

6:00pm Pax Christi Basketball

7:00pm Al-Anon

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday, December 27

8:30am MASS

Saturday, December 28

9:00am Women's AA Group

9:00am Overeater's Anonymous

4:00pm Private Reconciliation

5:00pm **MASS - FR. BYRON**

Sunday, December 29

HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING MORNING MASSES

9:00am **MASS - FR. McMICHAEL**

11:00am **MASS - FR. BYRON**

5:00pm **MASS - FR. BYRON**

Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am Mass.

Nursery provided during Sunday Mass times.

Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

2019 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

December 24

Children's Christmas Eve Mass

Fr. McMichael 2:00pm

Christmas Mass

Fr. Byron 4:00pm

Christmas Mass

Fr. McMichael 7:00pm

Lessons and Carols, followed by

9:30pm

Solemn Celebration of Christmas

Fr. Byron 10:00pm

Christmas Day

December 25

Christmas Mass

Fr. Byron 9:00am

Christmas Mass

Fr. Byron 11:00am

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 29/30

Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

December 31, 5:00pm

Holy Day of Obligation Mass

January 1, 9:00am

Feast of the Epiphany

January 5/6

Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your generosity!

Week of December 8:

Basket Collection

\$26,412

Online Giving

5,896

Other

30,549

Total Week #23

62,857

Budget

58,000

Variance

4,857

YTD Actual

1,136,281

YTD Budget

1,106,000

YTD Variance

30,281

Other contribution methods include grants from donor-advised funds, stock donations, IRA distributions, payroll deductions and other contributions mailed or delivered to the office.

Donate online at www.paxchristi.com/donations or text to give at 952-234-6729.